

3 September 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Symington Subcommittee Interest in Calling Agency
Witnesses

25X1 1. On 2 September Roland Paul, of the staff of Senator Symington's Subcommittee on U.S. Agreements and Commitments Abroad of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, called [] to ask the identity and present location of [] predecessor in [] Mr. Paul explained that the Subcommittee planned to hear a number of witnesses, including Agency officers, from the various country teams in embassies visited during Paul's recent Far Eastern trip. 25X1

25X1 2. On 3 September I called Paul for clarification of his request. He said he was compiling a list of knowledgeable officers of various U.S. agencies operating in the Far East area whom the Subcommittee might wish to call as witnesses. He said he intended to include Agency personnel because many of them, like [] apparently knew more about the local scene than any other American officials, and he wanted the names not only of our present station chiefs, but former ones over the past five years.

3. After checking with the Director, I called Paul back to say his request raised problems of both Committee jurisdiction and precedent which I hoped he would appreciate, and I wondered if it had the support of Senator Symington. He replied that he was sure Symington would support the request, since Symington planned extensive hearings on U.S. involvements in Southeast Asia and intended to call in from the field a number of country team members. I said that this would create some problems so far as Agency personnel were concerned and I wished to check the matter out with the Director. Paul responded that all he wished for the moment was

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simply a list of the most knowledgeable Agency officers regarding the countries involved and their present whereabouts. He added that he wanted the name of our present chief in [redacted], if other than [redacted] and also our previous chief. Paul apparently didn't like my idea of raising the matter with the Director, arguing that all he wanted for the moment was a list of the individuals concerned so that their attendance could be requested in a formal letter from Symington to the Director, at which time the problem could be discussed on that level.

4. I said I thought the Director might prefer to discuss the matter with Symington before it reached the stage of a formal request and would therefore take it up with the Director in the near future. Paul asked me to move promptly, since he wanted to line up a number of requests for witnesses from overseas, including Agency officers, in the next day or two.

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